

Teachers Can Make a Difference

A lot is written about teachers and their role in news dailies , the most common things we see and read is negative news about teachers and their behavior. I wanted to bring a change in this pattern because I firmly believe that teachers are nation builders. In this article I am highlighting how teachers can make a difference.

I have forgotten the lessons I learnt during my school days but I still remember my teachers. So much was their positive influence.

What is a teacher?

The question sounds different. I wanted to know what is in the mind of today's children about the role that the teachers should play. The answers were amazing. I have highlighted the answers, which were given by majority of the children.

Teacher is

- **A guide.**
- **A teacher.**
- **A friend.**
- **A motivator.**
- **A confidence builder.**
- **A skill builder**
- **A leader**
- **A role model**

In short the role of the teacher is demanding but rewarding and enriching. Successful students can be produced by successful teachers. How can we as teachers help students succeed? By

- 1) Valuing Student Differences
- 2) Encouraging Student Self-Motivation
- 3) Treating students as the co-managers of the teaching/learning process.
- 4) Understanding the students' expectations
- 5) Understanding one's own role.

What Do Students Want, Expect?

Self Determination – Empowerment (Ability to make choices about their courses etc.)?

Knowledge – to learn? Do they know how to learn?

Respect – to be treated like first-class, not second-class citizens –

To grow as a person

Excellence in the classroom.

Why don't we ask them? Involve them?

We faculty exist because of them . . . the students!

Teachers are expected to . . .

- Be specific with directions.
- Be a good listener.
- Probe & question your student continuously.
- Get feedback from students to ensure learning is happening.
- Respect your student's point of view.
- Accept and/or try to understand your student's feelings.
- Keep your cool at all times . . . show no "negative" emotion.
- Be patient.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be flexible! For learning to be successful it must be FUN!
- Not take anything for granted! Don't assume anything!

Request for champion teachers

I have few uncommon advices which will have long lasting positive effect in the minds of children.

- ◆ Listen patiently.
- ◆ Build a relationship.
- ◆ Do not abuse your authority.
- ◆ Nurture self-sufficiency
- ◆ Share yourself.
- ◆ Be constructive: Give positive feedback.
- ◆ Don't be overbearing: Avoid dictating choices.

Building Respect

To build respect among students the following points may help.

- ◆ Take students seriously
- ◆ Maintain an informal relationship outside the classroom.
- ◆ Be frank and direct
- ◆ Help develop self-esteem
- ◆ Address fears without belittling
- ◆ Meet on "neutral ground"

Can a teacher really be a friend?

- ◆ "Advisor, Teacher, Role Model, Friend"
- ◆ Power differential cannot be ignored
- ◆ You can never be simply a friend.
- ◆ But, personal relationship is what makes a teacher effective; share your own experience. Try to cultivate an informal relationship outside the classroom.

Advisor, Teacher, Role Model, Be Dynamic

- ◆ Your role is not static, nor the same in all situations.
- ◆ Each student is different and has different needs.
- ◆ Needs will change with time.
- ◆ You need to vary degree and type of attention, help, advice, information and encouragement.

Teacher As a Role Model

Be a model through both word and action.

The Teacher's Challenge

Build social bonds and convince students they matter

WHILE

Maintaining appropriate professional distance

If teachers & students care about
each other's success . . .

We can make a difference in . . .
each other's lives . . .

We can if we will . . . We know how.

By: NTC Team

Note: Hope you liked the content, we value your feedback:

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